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DEPT FOR EAP/J, IO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/14/2019

TAGS: PREL UNESCO JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON UNESCO DIRECTOR

GENERAL ELECTION

REF: STATE 82701

Classified By: Acting Political Minister Counselor Joseph Young for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d) $\,$

(C) Poloff conveyed reftel demarche points to MOFA Public Diplomacy Department Multilateral Cultural Cooperation Division Principal Deputy Director Kayoko Fukushima, on August 14. Fukushima acknowledged our message and appreciated the notification about U.S. consideration of candidates for the upcoming United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director General election. She noted that GOJ has "basic ideas" the nine candidates but has not yet decided on one in particular. Fukushima added that, in general, Japan favors candidates with strong managerial skills, who are capable, and willing to continue the reform initiatives of current Director General Koichiro Matsuura, a former Japanese Ambassador and MOFA careerist. Japan will continue to take a close look at the candidates and will follow-up with Embassy Tokyo, she said. ZUMWALT